

Translation of the Examiner's Comments in the Office Action dated October 12, 2004

The list of cited references:

Cited reference 1: JPA04-352274

Cited reference 2: JPA04-321162

As for Claim 1 (no novelty and no inventive step in view of cited reference 1)

The cited reference 1 teaches a data transferring apparatus capable of transferring data among a plurality of applications, comprising:

transferring means for transferring data selected from a first database (database for storing data of a first application) to a second database (a database for storing data of a second application);

determination means for determining if each of items of data can be set in the second database;

means for transferring data of item, which is determined not to be settable in the second database, to a predetermined item of the second database. (see paragraph 0002, paragraphs 0011 to 0018, Figs. 1 to 9)

Comparing with the present invention recited in claim 1 with the cited reference 1, "transferring" of the cited reference 1 corresponds to "copy" of the present invention because it is apparent from the cited reference 1 that data transferred from the first database are stored in the second database.

Also, "a data transferring apparatus capable of transferring data among a plurality of applications", "transferring means for transferring data selected from a first database (database for storing data of a first application) to a second database (a database for storing data of a second application)", "determination means for determining if each of items of data can be set in the second database" and "means for transferring data of item, which is determined not to be settable in the second database, to a predetermined item of the second database" of the cited reference 1 correspond to "an information processing apparatus which can access a plurality of databases", "first copying means for copying data selected from a first database to a second database", "determination means for determining if each of attribute items of attribute information appended to the data can be set in the second database" and "second copying means for copying information of an attribute item, which is determined by said determination means not to be settable in the second database, to a predetermined attribute item of the second database" of the present invention respectively.

Therefore, the present invention recited in claim 1 is not substantially different from the cited reference 1.

As for claim 2 (no novelty and no inventive step in view of cited reference 1)

The cited reference 1 teaches that, upon transferring item data, if there is a relevant item name in a destination, the item data are transferred to that item, and if there is no relevant item name, the item data are transferred to a predetermined item in the destination (see paragraph 0013).

For the rest, refer to the comments on claim 1.

As for claim 3 (no inventive step in view of cited reference 1)

The cited reference 1, in paragraph 0015 and Fig. 6, teaches that the item data determined to match with an item in the destination and the item data determined not to match with an item in the destination are stored in the same item field in the destination. Also, it is not an particular feature for a person skilled in the art, to make those data stored in the same item field identifiable whether or not the data are determined to match with the item in view of the problems to be solved "data are set in order upon transferring the data" (see paragraph 0004). Accordingly, it is obvious to a person skilled in the art to make transfer item data determined not to match with any item in the destination in "a predetermined format which indicates information of a mismatching attribute item" in order to identify those item data.

For the rest, refer to the comments on claim 1.

As for claim 4 (no inventive step in view of cited reference 1)

The cited reference 1, in paragraph 0015 and Fig. 7, teaches that different item data are stored in the same item field of the destination, and it is not particular to make an item name in the transferring source of the data stored in the same item field identifiable. Accordingly, it is easy to configure the apparatus to transfer the data in a "predetermined format indicating an item name and contents thereof", in order to identify these item data.

For the rest, refer to the comments on claim 3.

As for claim 5 (no inventive step in view of cited reference 1)

It is known to transfer data in a database to other database and then transfer the data from the other database to the original database again.

Accordingly, it is easy for a person skilled in the art to make arrangements where item data which has been transferred to the predetermined item field of the destination due to mismatch of the item, are transferred back to the transfer source later and recovered.

For the rest, refer to the comments on claim 4.

As for claim 6 (no inventive step in view of cited reference 1)

It is matter of design to apply the invention of the cited reference 1 to "backup" application.

For the rest, refer to the comments on claim 5.

As for claim 7 (no novelty and no inventive step in view of cited references 1, 2)

The cited reference 1 teaches: applying, as a symbol corresponding to item name of each item in the database, "attribute symbol" capable of being used for determining matching and similarity; finding similar item in the destination database based on the attribute symbol; and transferring item data to the similar item (see paragraphs 0012 to 0013, Figs. 2 to 5). It is found that the "attribute symbol" corresponds to "conversion information" of claim 7 in a point that the attribute symbol indicates correspondence between an item of a transfer source and an item of a transfer destination.

For the rest, refer to the comments on claim 1.

Note that arrangements for "storing correspondences of attribute items in a form of a table" (paragraph 0055 and Fig. 7 of the present specification) are described by paragraph 0021 and Fig. 6 in the cited reference 2.

As for claim 8 (no novelty and no inventive step in view of cited references 1, 2)

See comments on claim 7.

As for claim 9 (no inventive step in view of cited references 1, 2)

It is easy for a person skilled in the art to arrange the invention of the cited reference 1 to, when an attribute symbol is not set, transfer the item which is not settable in the destination, to a predetermined item field in the destination.

For the rest, refer to the comments on claim 7.

As for claim 10 (no inventive step in view of cited references 1, 2)

It is apparent in the cited reference 1 that the item symbol is set by a user input. Also, it is a matter of design to choose configuration where the user's setting is performed before data transfer between databases or configuration where the user's setting is performed upon data transfer between databases.

For the rest, refer to the comments on claim 7.

As for claims 11 and 14 (no novelty and no inventive step in view of cited references 1)

Refer to the comments on claim 1.

As for claims 12 and 15 (no inventive step in view of cited references 1)

Refer to the comments on claim 6.

As for claims 13 and 16 (no novelty and no inventive step in view of cited references 1)

Refer to the comments on claim 7.